A TRUE ACCOUNT OF A LATE Horrid Conspiracy TO BETRAY HOLLAND TO THE FRENCH.

And of the

Trial, Confession, Condemnation and Execution of *Jacob Martinet* Sheriff of the Town of *Sluys*, and *Cornelius Reolands* Master of the Ship call'd the *Argle* of *Amsterdam*, who were Executed for the said Conspiracy the Sixth of this Instant *May*, 1690.

Done off of the Dutch Copy.

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A True Account of a late Horrid Conſpiracy to Betray Holland *to the* French, *&c.*

THE unwearied Aims of the *French*, for a great many years, to ſwallow up the States of *Holland*, are ſufficiently known to all the World; and by their Intrigues with the late unhappy *Penſioner de Wit*, they were once within an Ace of overturning this Commonwealth for good and all. That the *French* continue in their former Methods of Bribing with their Money ſuch *Villains* as are deſtitute of all Love to their Country, and who are willing to Sacrifice every thing to their accurſed greedineſs of Money, we have a freſh Example in the *Treaſon and Trial* of theſe two Miſcreants *Jacob Martinet* Sheriff or *Scapen* of the Town of *Sluys*, and *Cornelius Reolands* Maſter of the Ship called the *Argle* of *Amſterdam*, which was as follows.

On the Third day of *April* laſt, there was intercepted a *Packet* of Letters ſewed within the Waſtcoat of a Seaman, going from *Sluys* to *Oſtend* by Land: which being opened by one of the Magiſtrates of *Oſtend*, before whom the Fellow was brought, they were found to contain a dangerous Conſpiracy to Betray to the *French* the ſtrong Town of *Sluys*, and thereby a chief Key of *Holland*. Upon which the Seaman being examin'd, *Declared that he came from* Sluys *the day before, and was deſigned to find ſome way to get thence to* Dunkirk; *and that he had received the Letters found a-*

bout him from Cornelius Reolands *his Maſter at* Sluys, *and was to deliver them to one Monſieur* Rayon a *Colonel of a Regiment of* French, *lying in the Town of* Dunkirk. He further confeſſed, *That he had been three weeks before with Letters from his Maſter to the ſame Colonel, and that he had returned with Letters from the ſaid Colonel, directed to his Maſter.*

The Fellow, after this Confeſſion, was kept cloſe Priſoner, and an Expreſs immediately diſpatch'd to acquaint the States with it, who thereupon ordered the Magiſtrates of *Sluys* to ſecure the ſaid *Cornelius Reolands* in cloſe Priſon, and to Examine him ſecretly about this Treaſon. *Reolands* being taken, denied all at firſt, but the Letter he had written to Monſieur *Rayon* being produced againſt him, which had been taken at *Oſtend* about his Servant, he not only confeſt it was his, but alſo that *Jacob Martinet* the Sheriff of the Town was concern'd in the Affair more than he, and that the Letter written in Cyphers, found about his man, was written by *Martinets* own hand.

Upon this *Martinet* being ſecured, there was one Letter immediately directed to the Marqueſs of *Caſtanage* General Governour of the *Netherlands* from the Aſſembly of the *States of Holland*, to deſire his *Excellency* would be pleaſed to ſend the Seamen taken in *Oſtend* with the foreſaid Letters, immediately under a Guard to the Town of *Sluyce*, which his Excellency was pleaſed to do.

All things being ready for the Trial of theſe two Traitors, Count *Horne* Governour of *Sluys* was ordered to repair to the Town to be preſent at, and to haſten the Trial. Upon the firſt day of this Inſtant *May* the Priſoners, *Jacob Martinet* and *Cornelius Reolands*, were brought to their Trial in the *Town-houſe* of *Sluys*, before Judges appointed for that Effect, of whom Count *Horne* was one. *Cornelius Reolands* being confronted with his own Servant, acknowledged, *That he and the other Priſoner had*

had kept Correſpondence with one Monſieur Rayon, *Colonel of a* French *Regiment in* Dunkirk, *and by his Means and Mediation with one* Monſieur de Perry, *Secretary of War under the Duke of* Luxemburgh, *who was to command the* French *Army in the Frontiers of* Flanders *this Summer.* And that he and the ſaid other Priſoner *had received ſeveral Letters from the ſaid Monſieur* Rayon *upon the ſame Subject, and in one of them a Line from the ſaid* Monſieur de Terry, *directed to him and the other Priſoner, wherein he aſſured them, if they would promiſe to accompliſh the Deſign in hand, he ſhould cauſe to be paid them in hand, each of them Ten thouſand Livers, and upon the performing of it, they ſhould receive, each of them, Twenty thouſand more, with an honourable Retreat and Employment in any place of* France *they pleaſed.* He likewiſe acknowledged, *That they were to receive the firſt Ten thouſand Livers apiece at the Return of his Servant they had ſent upon that Errand, when he was taken beſide* Oſtend; *and that the way of Returning the Money was by a Bill of* Exchange *from a Banker of* Paris *upon a Jew in* Amſterdam, *payable to the ſaid other Priſoner* Jacob Martinet. Adding, *That his Servant knew nothing of the Secret, but only was employ'd to carry the Letters betwixt* Martinet *and him, and the ſaid Monſieur* Rayon. *And that he knew nothing of the Deſign till* Martinet *drew him into it, and aſſured him, that there was the like Deſign in moſt of the Towns of* Holland.

Being deſired to give account of the Deſign it ſelf. He gave it thus: *That the ſaid* Martinet *and He were to let in a great many* French *by threes and fours, under the notion of Deſerters from the* French *Army, and that before hand, they were to provide ſeveral private Lodgings for them to be ready upon call. In the mean time he and* Martinet *were to provide a great many Fire-locks, under the pretence of buying them,*

them, in order to ſell them again to the new raiſed Regiments in Flanders. *That when they had got into Town a competent number of* French *in the manner above mentioned, they were to concert with the ſaid Monſieur* Rayon *a particular night, in which He with other two Regiments ſhould be in readineſs to march from the neareſt places of the* French *Conqueſts, to* Sluys, *by ſuch ways as was laid down in a plan agreed betwixt them. That at the night and hour appointed, the ſaid* Martinet *and He were to have all the* French *in readineſs with their Arms to fall upon the Gariſon, there being ordinarily but two hundred men upon duty at a time; And having cut them off, they were at the ſame time to open the Eaſt Gate to the other* French *under the Command of* Monſieur Ra, on, *and being joyned together to take Poſſeſſion of, and keep the Town for the* French *King, whoſe Army at the ſame time was to fall down with all diligence and force upon the Frontiers of* Holland. He further acknowledged, *That he doubted not but the* French *were tampering with ſome in moſt of the Towns of* Holland *to the ſame effect; and that he knew, there were ſeveral great Sums of Money returned by Bill to* Amſterdam *to this end, and that there were ſeveral Agents up and down* Amſterdam, Rotterdam, Bergen, U[illegible]om, *the* Buſh, Utreght, Lyden, *and all other Towns in* Holland, *who were buſie in making Intreigues to betray the reſpective Towns to the* French *for ſeveral Sums of Money, and Promiſes of great Preferment.*

Cornelius Reolands being found Guilty upon his Confeſſion, was removed, and immediately thereafter *Jacob Martinet*, the other Priſoner, was brought to his Trial. Who ſtoutly denied he knew any thing of a Deſign to betray the Town of *Sluys* into the hands of the *French*, or that he had ever entertained Correſpondence with Monſieur *Royon*, or *Monſieur de Terry*, to that or any other Effect. Whereupon *Reolands* Servant, with whom the a-

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bove written Letters were found, was produced againſt him as an Evidence; who being ſworn, depos'd, *That he had received the Letters, which had been taken about him at* Oſtend, *from his Maſter* Reolands, *and that he the ſaid* Jacob Martinet, *was preſent when his Maſter gave them him, and that* Martinet *deſired him to Return as ſoon as poſſible, giving him half a Piſtol to drink, ſaying, That if he got a good Anſwer of ſome Money Buſineſs he had written about, he, the Deponent, ſhould be well paid.*

Martinet briskly deny'd that he ever had ſeen this Witneſs, or had been in Company with *Reolands* but once in his Life, about ſix years ago. The Evidence immediately in open Court required two men, whom he knew, to declare, if they did not ſeveral times ſee his Maſter *Reolands* and *Martinet* together at the *Maurice Head* Tavern in *Sluys*; who upon Oath declared they had often ſeen them both go into, and come out from that Tavern, they two all alone, and that within leſs than theſe two Months. Notwithſtanding all which *Martinet* ſtood firmly to his Denial.

At length the *Declaration* and *Confeſſion* of his Accomplice *Reolands* was read before him, whereat he ſeem'd to be much ſtunn'd, having often changed colour the time of the Reading it. But inſiſting in his Denial, and the Law not allowing the Confeſſion of one Accomplice to be ſufficient proof, he was adjudged to be put to the Torture. Whereupon all things being ready for it, his Courage failed him, and he told the People appointed to put it in Execution, that he would confeſs all he knew of the Affair he was charged with, before the Judges.

Being thereupon called into Court, He freely confeſt *His being upon a Plot with* Reolands *to deliver up the Town of* Sluys *to the* French, *after the manner contained in* Reolands *Confeſſion, with this particular Circumſtance, That in a Letter Written to him by* Monſieur de Terry, *Secretary of War under the Duke of* Luxemburgh, *he was promiſed Ten Thouſand Livers more than was to be given to* Reolands, *together with a place in the Preſidial Court of* Sedan, *worth Three Thouſand Livers* per Annum. And thereafter being deſired to decipher the Letter written in Cyphers found about *Reolands* Man: He freely did it in theſe Words, as was dictated by him from the Letter given him in open Court.

SIR,

WE have fully concerted the manner we are to act here in delivering up the Town, and it reſts only, that you be as ready to effectuate your part at a preciſe time to be appointed, which both Mr. Reolands *and I think to be moſt proper ſometime in the middle of* May *next, becauſe the Army of the States will not be in the Field till the end of that Month at ſooneſt; You ſee what I venture to ſerve ſo great and generous a Prince, and it's but a ſmall part of what I would do to ſerve him. Be ſure you by the Bearer adjuſt the exact time and way of your being in a readineſs to accompliſh your part of the Deſign, and I think it were time, that ſome of theſe Souldiers ſhould be ſtealing in, as you know. After receipt of yours, we will be every day*

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making one ſtep or other to forward the thing. And tho' I doubt not but by the ſame Bearer you will ſend the Bill as you promiſed; ſo I aſſure you, I am more perſwaded of the reaſonableneſs of having a greater Summ ready in ſome hand, to make uſe of for gaining others to our Intereſt, as perhaps the Affairs will require. I need not ſay more, but commit my Fortune to your Conduct, who am

SIR,

Your Faithful and Humble

Sluys *April* 1*ſt.*
1690. *Servant,*

Ja. Martinet.

Theſe *Confeſſions* of both *Jacob Martinet* and of *Coruelius Reonalds* being again read in open Court, they both of them received Sentence in theſe words.

Foraſmuch, as you Jacob Martinet, *and you* Cornelius Reolands, *are by your own Confeſſion, and other legal Proofs and Letters, found Guilty of holding a Correſpondence with* Monſieur Rayon *Colonel of a* French *Regiment in the* French *Kings Army, and with* Monſieur de Terry *Secretary of War under the Marſhal Duke of* Luxenburgh, *in order to betray the Garriſon and Town of* Sluys *to the* French *for a Summ of Money, agreed to be paid by the ſaid* Monſieur de Terry, *to you* Jacob Martinet, *and to you* Cornelius Reolands *for doing thereof. By which Action the whole Province of* Holland, *and Neighbouring Provinces would have been in eminent*

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hazard of being thereupon ruin'd by the French *Army. Therefore the Court does hereby adjudge you the ſaid* Jacob Martinet, *to be taken back to Priſon, and thence upon the Sixth of* May *Inſtant, to be drawn upon a Cart to the publick Market place of this Town, and there to be hanged up by the Neck on a Gibbet, and being near dead, to have your Bowels ript up, and thereafter being fully dead, to have your Body divided into four Quarters, to be diſpoſed of as the Court ſhall afterwards think fit, and your Head to be ſevered from your Body, and affixt upon the very ſame Gate of this Town which you deſigned to open to the Enemy. Likewiſe the Court adjudges you the ſaid* Cornelius Reolands *to be taken back to the Priſon, and upon the ſaid Sixth of this Inſtant* May, *to be taken to the ſaid Market place of this Town of* Sluys, *and there to be hanged up by the Neck upon a Gibbet until you be dead. Aud this we give for a final Sentence againſt you both, wiſhing God may ſhew Mercy to your Souls.*

According to this Sentence, upon the ſaid Sixth day of *May* Inſtant, the ſaid *Jacob Martinet* was brought to the Place of Execution, where he behaved himſelf very impenitently, and refuſed to ſpeak to the People, and had the Sextence executed upon him as aforeſaid.

After him came *Cornelius Reolands*, who both in Priſon, and at the Place of Execution, carried himſelf very devoutly and penitently: And asking leave if he might ſpeak to the People, he expreſt himſelf in words to this purpoſe, a Copy whereof he had given before-hand to the *Sheriff* or *Scapen* that attended him.

Good Chriſtian People,

I *Am brought here juſtly, for deſigning to betray my Country to a Forreign Enemy for a Sum of Money; I confeſs*

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my ſelf Guilty of the Crime, and I beg God's forgiveneſs and your forgiveneſs for it, and am willing to dye for it, as I juſtly deſerve. I muſt ſay, I did for ſome Months reſiſt the Offers that were made me by the unhappy man that is gone before me; but at length my Wants prevail'd with me to accept what I thought would rid me out of them. This I do not ſay to excuſe my ſelf in the leaſt; God forbid I ſhould. And as I conſented to betray this Town, ſo I did promiſe to do another Villany, which indeed I forgot to tell my Judges at my Trial; and it was, to ſee if I could prevail with any Captains of Ships, to betray their Ships to the French, *for which I was to receive Money from the* French *Secretary of War to give to thoſe Captains. I hope your Diſpleaſure againſt me for ſo Villainous Deſigns will end, when I have ſatisfied Juſtice with my Blood. I earneſtly beg the aſſiſtance of your Prayers for me in this my Agony; and I commit my Soul to God, hoping to be ſaved by the Merits of Chriſt my Redeemer.*

Having delivered himſelf thus, and heard the Miniſter that waited on him pray, and having pray'd himſelf, he was juſt going to be turn'd off, when pulling up the Handkerchief that was over his Eyes, he ſaid, *Good People, there is one thing my Conſcience obliges me to tell you with my laſt Breath, and it's this; I am affraid there are a great many ſuch Deſigns in hand up and down this Country like this for which I ſuffer; and I wiſh there may be ſome effectual means to prevent them; for I aſſure you the* French *Agents are very buſie every where, and they ſpare no money to obtain their Ends I have no more to ſay, but again beg earneſtly the Aſſiſtance of your Prayers: And I commit my Soul to God.*

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Having thus ſaid, he was turned over the Ladder, and his Body afterwards, by order of the Magiſtrates, was given to his Friends to be buried.

Thus we have one ſad Example more of the ill Effects of the *French* Money towards our Country and Commonwealth; but we hope God will diſappoint all their Deſigns, and bring their Accomplices to juſt Puniſhment.

FINIS.

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